

**TESTIMONY OF MATT PULDA  
ON BEHALF OF STATE REP. JOHN TOWNSEND  
IN FAVOR OF ASSEMBLY BILL 83  
JULY 16, 2009**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members, for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Assembly Bill 83. My name is Matt Pulda, and I am Representative Townsend's research assistant. The Representative was not able to attend today's hearing because of a family medical issue.

Representative Townsend introduced AB 83 at the request of John Wertschnig, the director of the Fond du Lac County's veterans service office.

As you may know, current law permits veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 70 percent to obtain an annual fishing license for a discounted fee.

Mr. Wertschnig believed the law should be expanded to include veterans who receive disability compensation benefits because they have been deemed individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Our office also worked closely with the chair of the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officers' legislative committee, Chris Jordan, the Walworth CVSO.

The CVSOs were inspired by 2007 Act 165, which expanded the criteria for disabled veterans who receive free admission to Wisconsin state parks. The Senate passed that law 33-0, and the Assembly concurred on a voice vote. Similarly, the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs recommended AB 83 10-0, and the Assembly passed it on a voice vote in June.

Thank you for your time today, and I would be happy to answer any questions.